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A  
L E T T E R  
FROM A  
SPANIARD at LONDON  
TO HIS  
Friend at MADRID.



[ Price Six-pence. ]



RETTI

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English at Madrid.

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A  
LETTER  
FROM A  
SPANIARD in LONDON  
TO HIS  
Friend at MADRID.

Setting forth the happy Consequences  
that must accrue to *SPAIN*, from  
the late Conduct of her great Friend,  
at the Court of *ENGLAND*.

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*— Timor Latronibus: At bene si quis  
Et puris vivat manibus, contemnat.*

HORACE.

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M O R

STANDARD in London.

21 H O T

Friend at Madrid.

at the Court of B W G L A N D  
the late Conduct of her great Father  
that most accurate & P A I M. from  
Setting forth the happy Consequences

Timor Islands: At one place, the first of the islands, containing.





A  
LETTER  
FROM A

*Spaniard at London.*

S I R,



S you have spent formerly  
some Years in *England*, and  
are well acquainted with  
the Constitution and Genius  
of the People, I am persuaded the Re-  
marks, I have now sent you, on some of  
their

their late refin'd Pieces of Policy, will not be less entertaining than my last; and, as I know you are an utter Enemy to Forms and Stiffness, I shall give you my Thoughts just as they occur, without affecting much Regularity.

I need not tell you the grand Point, that has engaged, for a considerable Time, the Attention of the People here, is War or no War with *Spain*. Nor, how much the M——r has been in reality our Friend, by so ordering his Affairs, for some Years past, that now it is judged by some impracticable for one in his Circumstances, to enter into a War. One Part of the People here, who are not in any Shape dependent upon the M——r, and who seem to have just Sentiments of Freedom (which is a Point, you know, they all boast of, tho' so many of them are, in the strictest Sense, Slaves, even from Place-men in Lace to Tide-waiters) are continually  
for

for demanding Justice of the *Spaniards*. They naturally repine, like People un-us'd to Bondage, at what they have suffer'd from us. The Losses of their Merchants by our Depredations (as they call them) the Imprisonment and ill Treatment of their Sailors, the Chicanery plaid upon their *South-Sea* Company, and a Thousand other Things, which they naturally think unjust and oppressive, make them cry a loud for War, and throw out in their Discourse, as well as Writings, the severest Threats and Indignations against him, whom alone they suppose the Cause of stifling the universal Resentment of the aggrieved.

WE *Spaniards* have, indeed, for a considerable Time, been pretty free with the *English* in *America*. In short, we have used them just as they would us, had they been in such a State as some of them suppose themselves; superior

perior in Power and Strength. Their Merchants and Gentlemen (not those in Power) pretend to say we are guilty of a Violation of Treaty, and Perfidy, and the Lord knows what; that tho', by Articles contracted between us and *England*, we have oblig'd ourselves to treat them with Friendship and Humanity, *sine ulla Depredatione*; to suffer them to refit, take shelter with us, or any Necef-  
 faries whatever; to remain in our Ports as long as was convenient, &c. Yet in-  
 stead of that we have made bold to seize and confiscate several of their Vessels for our own Use and Advantage, &c. The Politicians that reason thus don't reflect that every Treaty between two contracting Powers, will easily, in Pro-  
 cess of Time, exprefs whatever Mean-  
 ing the superior Power pleases to draw from it. The Point, in a Word, hinges here; The *English* dare not resent; for that, you know, we are to suppose the Meaning of their pacific Measures; not  
 but



but the Merchants and People (I don't mean the Place-men) are so inflam'd against us, that they would embark almost on any Score for the Sake of Revenge, and Security of their Trade for the future. But when I say they dare not resent, I would be understood to mean, that the M——r, considering the Circumstances he has reduc'd himself to, dares not proclaim a War with *Spain*: For notwithstanding the long Peace this Kingdom has enjoy'd, and the monstrous Sums they have rais'd from Time to Time, their national Debt is still prodigiously great; and they have made no Alliances of any Consequence; their Divisions and Animosities among themselves run extremely high, which must make those at Helm fearful of a War with us.

Now, Sir, I need not tell you how much a *certain Gentleman* here has been a Friend to our Country, *Spain*, in bringing himself to such a melancholly State.

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On



On the one Hand he is forc'd to support the Odium of the greatest and wealthiest Part of the Kingdom, for not going to War with *Spain*; on the other, if he does enter into a War, and the least Appearance of ill Success should happen, he is to expect nothing less than to give Account of what of all Things imaginable he would choose to avoid. He is now advanced in Years, and if he can only ward off the Blow, as long as he lives, what cares he for the Perplexities in which he leaves his Friends.

IF it should ever happen that a Fellow, who had for many Years undertook to manage his Master's Estate, should be in Danger of being brought to Account for immense Sums wasted in Prodigality and Luxury, in bribing under Servants to Secresy, and to his own Interest, in treating the Neighbours round him for Fear of Complaints; in short, for expending his Master's Money most luxuriously,  
 what

what would not such a Villain do to screen himself from Justice, and avoid the Halter? If he can only preserve himself in his Master's Service, so as to escape the Lash of the Law as long as he lives, he cares not one Jot in what State his Accompts are found after his Decease.

FRIENDSHIP is often measured by the Steps that are taken to serve a Person, without so much regarding the Intention of the Doer as the Favour done. In this Sense, Sir, we have certainly a very good Friend in the Court of *England*; one, whose Measures (if not calculated) have all turn'd out ultimately to our Advantage. For what End else could any one have concerted the Convention Scheme. You will tell me, perhaps, it was intended, at all Hazards, to prevent a War, and to amuse, in some Degree, those that were incens'd against his Conduct. But suppose that to be the Case, surely it was a Master-piece of Policy to prevent one

Evil by a greater. The Plenipo's of *England* are to agree, if they can, to settle some Points in Dispute, according to the Tenour of Articles already subsisting. What can these Wise-acres think to get by that? Don't they know we have already explain'd the Articles our own Way; in Consequence of which we have seiz'd and confiscated their Ships and Cargoes, according to our Meaning of their Treaties; and can they be such Fools as to think we shall explain a way at the Convention any Thing that now turns to our Advantage? Particularly when we find they have it not in their Power to gainsay our Reasoning.

WOULD they, if their Circumstances would have suffer'd them to have used stronger Arguments, pusillanimously have had Recourse to a Convention? Would Leave have been given to their Plenipo's to treat about (*alias*) to give up what we never should have thought of insisting on,

on, but for the mean Figure they make in *Europe*. The *French*, as well as we, may justly ridicule and laugh at *Monf. Balance*. *Jack English* truly makes a fine Figure, and is of great Weight in the Balance of Power, when he is forc'd to come cringing to a Convention; and to treat about Points that never would have come upon the 'Tapis, but for their own Supineness and Ignorance in Policy. It is really very pleasant to reflect, that a Kingdom of Wealth, renown'd for its Bravery, the most happily situated for Trade, and whose naval Force is superior to that of any other Kingdom in the World, should be forc'd to shew all becoming Humility to us *Spaniards* (who, you know, have long since had a wonderfull Love for them) should, in short, oblige us in any thing but fighting, for Fear of ——— what? Why a M——'s being disgrac'd. *Vis sine Consilio mole ruit sua*. This our Marquis has found out long since; when a Master takes a Thrust  
with



with a Bungler, he soon finds out his Foible, and can hit him where and when he pleases.

THERE is another merry Point, with regard to this Master-piece of a Convention. The *English* Plenipo's are to agree upon some Terms for the Advantage of their Country, if ours will but come into it, within the Space of eight Months ; and if they do not, what then ? They will only be the laughing Stock of *Europe*. Mean Time we shall chastize them in the *American* Seas, as they have heretofore, in other Places, serv'd us, when the Rod was in their Hands.

Now, Sir, if any Man has put it in our Power to treat a Nation, that has so often made a glaring Figure in the Field as well as Cabinet, in such a Manner as we have us'd them, and, we think, for Injuries done unto us, they deserve, ought we not to look upon him as the best Friend  
in



in the World to the *Spanish* Monarchy? Besides, Sir, we are so happy as not only to have one Friend, whom we chiefly rely on, but we have Multiplicity of all Ranks, who, according to their different Capacities, are very much our Friends, in fact, whether they intend it or not. A certain Number of Place-men publicly and unanimously applauded that wonderful Scheme, the Convention, and gave their publick Thanks to the Concerters and Abettors of it, as a Thing compleatly calculated to prevent the calamitous Consequences of a War; and by the bye, to procure to themselves a very irksome kind of a Peace. Yet these very same People (so inscrutable is their Policy) as unanimously declar'd, that the Complaints of the *English* Merchants ill Usage was entirely well grounded, and proved beyond Contradiction. But War was not to be ventur'd on upon any Account. For this they deserve our Thanks, or rather they are due to our great Friend, for they

they all see and hear with his Eyes and Ears, shut or open their Mouths just as he does; in short, they are a kind of political Puppets; let the grand Shew-man pull the Wire and the *Member* performs its Motion.

THIS amazing Obedience of the Senses is more remarkably extensive in this Kingdom than in any other I know of. Among the Clergy there is hardly one, who ever thought of a Translation, a Mitre, a Prebend's Stall, or a small Benefice, from a Pensioner in Power; but, to a Man, from the Bishop of *C——r*, down to Orator *H——y*, or the Ordinary of *Newgate*, feels the Benefit of the Convention already. There's scarcely an Exciseman in the Kingdom but is thoroughly convinc'd. of the Penetration and Address shewn in their late Conduct with *Spain*, at least he knows the Value of Fifty Pounds a Year. Even the *Petit Maitres* of the Army, tho' fresh from  
their

their Nurseries, can declaim at a Tea-table in Praise of Peace, and set forth the great Damage Trade would receive from a War with *Spain*.

Now, Sir, can any thing turn out so luckily for us? We shall never desire a War so long as we gain much more without it. Upon the Foot Things now stand, we must certainly search their Ships, and confiscate occasionally; till by Degrees we have so cramp'd their Trade, that their Colonies in *America* are quite impoverish'd, and then make bold to put in our Claim for a small Island or two, and so on: for as far as I can form a Judgment from the Complexion of our Friends, we might proceed so far with the utmost Impunity, nor need we apprehend the least Danger from any of their Naval Preparations. It is convenient that some pretty Method should be concerted for raising such immense Sums as are here rais'd; if no more

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Money

Money than would be necessary, with frugal Management, should be drawn from the People, what would a Treasurer's Place be worth? Their Fleets of late are so very inoffensive, that (tho' they make a great Destruction of Beef and Hogs, not to mention Oatmeal and Pease) it has been often question'd, by our Countrymen, whether they ever carry any Ball on Board. So that I think, the Blame thrown on the Ministry for what they call *Spithead Fights*, entirely unjust. For, in all likelihood, their Fleets would do just as much real Service at *Spithead* as they would on the Coast of *Spain*. But these inoffensive Fleets answer another very good End; when the People of *England* cry aloud for War, for Revenge against the *Spaniard*; upon every new Provocation, it is necessary they should be amus'd and pacified: Immediately a Squadron is equipp'd, with all possible Expedition; the People are industriously made to believe,



lieve, some effectual Step will be taken, and that, if Violence is not had Recourse to, yet the bare Sight of a *British* Squadron is to strike every one around them with Terror, and must certainly add Weight to their Expostulations, and give a Sanction to their phlegmatick Reasonings, and so on. So much does Credulity prevail here, that, tho' the same Thing has been often ineffectually tried, yet are they foolish enough patiently to wait the Event, as often as the same Trick is play'd upon them, to flatter themselves with mighty Hopes of bringing us to any Terms, by the same stale Artifice. These Politicians might save a great deal of the Nation's Treasure (if that was a Point they ever studied) and make us hearken to them just as well, if, every Spring, they should terrify us with two or three handsome Squadrons upon Canvass. The quiet, passive, easy, pacific Disposition of the People here, is likewise very evident from the wonder-



ful Veneration they have to Memorials. It is pleasant enough to think, that upon every fresh Complaint of Consequence, a new Memorial must be drawn up to represent their Grievance to our Marquis. Some Statesmen would much sooner have perceiv'd, that our *Spanish* Minister no farther regards an *English* Memorial, than for the Softness of the Paper. Oh the Depth of their Policy ! to see them sending one Memorial upon another, and each with the same good Effect as the former, in as solemn a Manner as the Pope's Bulls are, and as little regarded : so that I am inform'd the *English* are look'd upon in our Court, as the Memorialists of *Europe*.

THO' so many Things conspire to make *British* Policy a standing Joke, and to make the People appear despicably low in the Eye of the World ; yet, Sir, the independent Part of them are by no means to be look'd upon in the same  
Light,

Light. There is such a Thing still subsisting as *British* Courage, a noble Ardor for Revenge, Love of their Country; these are the People that are just the Reverse of that servile Herd that are in fact so much our Friends. These are the People we have still some room to fear. There are many of this Sort of the first Figure and Condition in the Kingdom, Men of Integrity as well as Penetration, not to be bias'd by a Pension, or a Bribe from a wealthy Knave, to betray their Trust in the minutest Point; who are continually vigilant, always ready to detect the shallow Artifices of our great Friend, to expose his Blunders, and set him in a true Light to the People. Nor are the Merchants here less our Enemies. It is natural to suppose, that as many of them have been great Sufferers by us, and many of them entirely ruin'd, they must needs repine under their Calamities, and pressingly demand Vengeance. The Gentlemen in general complain aloud, of  
being

being harrafs'd with excessive Taxes after so long a Peace. I say from Men of this Cast we are to apprehend the only Clog upon our Designs in the *West-Indies*. Tho', to our Comfort, these are not in Power at present.

THE Liberty of the Press is a Point, you know, Sir, the *English* have boasted much of, yet they have been somewhat cramp'd of late in that Regard, by our staunch Friend. The Freedoms likewise, which their Writers us'd to take in Dramatic Performances are now under proper Restraints. A Gentleman, who, I hope, is well affected to us, is made Taster of the Drama; let what will be dress'd up for the Town, nothing must be serv'd up to the People but what he approves of. This I likewise look upon as a considerable Point gain'd upon the *English*, for nothing that reflects grossly upon us, or tends to incense the People against our *Benefactors* will be suffer'd by the Taster:

IT

It is given out by our Friends, that the Correction of the Stage was intended with a good View: Perhaps, to prevent those Inflammations that might be rais'd among the People, by exposing and ridiculing Men in Power. That a Courtier, who has shewn Probity and Discretion in the Course of his Conduct, may not be expos'd to the Contempt or Rage of the People, thro' the Licentiousness of a Wit, who can easily set the worst Character in a despicable Light. It is likewise suggested, that most modern Plays have been destructive of Morality, that Virtue has been ridicul'd and Vice applauded, by Writers, whose only View was to please a corrupt debauch'd Taste. These, I think, are some of the principal Reasons for which the Regulation of the Stage was attempted. But it is not impossible but some Gentlemen, very zealous in carrying on this important Affair, might have had some other (couchant) Reasons, of no small Importance.



tance. For it is not a very common thing, to see a Minister of State laying Schemes for the Encouragement of Virtue, and discountenancing Vice, unless some End (thought to be of more Consequence) be answer'd at the same Time. Virtue and Vice are Points that do not so much concern People of that Tribe, as *in Place, or out*. It would surely make a Man laugh, tho' he had one Foot in the Grave, to hear of Sir R—— ——— concerting Schemes for curbing Vice and Immorality, or endeavouring to promote Honesty and Probity, unless it was by his own *Exemplary Practice*. Or who could help being mov'd (either with Mirth or Indignation) to hear a Pensioner reproving Bribery, or recommending Integrity and publick Spiritedness. It is a trite Observation, that Satire is a kind of Glass in which a Man can see every body's Face but his own. But this could not be the Case of those that were so terrified with the Freedoms of the Stage. In the  
Mirrors



Mirrors that were shewn there People could see themselves so justly represented, that not one in twenty of our Friends could ever bear the Sight of so horrid a Spectacle. Hence the Licentiousness of the Stage must needs be restrain'd. A fashionable Vice must never be touch'd upon, lest some one of very great Distinction should be offended. Luxury, Profusion, the Waste of publick Money, and the like, are Points that must not be hinted at, for fearing of galling some overgrown enormous Villain of Distinction. But notwithstanding these discreet Restraints on the Stage, calculated for the *Encouragement of Virtue*, an Author is at full Liberty to paint out Patriotism in what dismal Colours he thinks proper. If a Gentleman should undertake to serve his Country in a public Capacity, and execute the Trust repos'd in him, in a Manner becoming an upright Man, incapable of being bias'd from his Integrity by the mean Offer of a Bribe, or

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some pilfering Office; he must be immediately look'd upon as an Enemy to his Country, Jacobite, and what not? Such a Character, drawn in a proper Manner for the Stage, would not probably meet with any Censure from the worthy Nobleman, whose Judgment alone must be the Test, by which every Dramatick Composition must be tried, and whose Taste no good Subject will dispute, particularly if it be consider'd, that he is a Gentleman of Taste by Law establish'd.

For my part, I believe, Sir, according to the Account I have given you of the *English* Stage, we *Spaniards* shall receive no small Advantage from the becoming Restraints it is now under. The Liberty of the Press is very sensibly affected by this Step. For, our Friends, by the same Power by which they have secur'd themselves from being publickly ridicul'd upon the Stage, will probably take all prudent Care shortly, for their

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own Security in Coffee-houses and Taverns, by settling a Licencer for Pamphlets and News-papers. And when the Freedom of the Press is once given up, they may take what Steps they please. The Marquis will find no great Difficulty in gaining a Colony or two, and who dares gainsay it? An advantageous Point or two in the Affair of Trade may be carried, and what need we fear; who dares oppose it? Not the Placemen I dare say. Yet I am forc'd to confess, in spite of every thing I have said, we have still something to dread from the vigorous intrepid Spirit of the People. When they find themselves deeply and sensibly touch'd (like the Game Cocks and Bull Dogs of the Country) no Authority, no Terror, not even Death itself is sufficient to bring them to Submission. They may be led, stroked, and tickled to almost any thing; but if monstrous, glaring Impositions are play'd upon them, their violent Rage and Fury is not easily quell'd.

IF I was capable of advising their Leader, I should heartily wish, for the Interest of *Spain*, that the most easy, plausible, tender Means might be tried, in order to soften and sweeten the Dispositions of the People. Then they might be brought to any Measures whatever. Notwithstanding the Liberty they so much boast of, I can't see how they, one Jot, possess Freedom more than we do in *Spain*, or any other Subjects of an absolute Monarchy. As to the Distinction between an absolute and a mixt Monarchy, I can see no Difference. For even here, where they boast so much of the Share the People have in the Government, our great Friend has the sole Power, as much as the Cardinal in *France*, or the Marquis in *Spain*. For notwithstanding the Representatives of the People are chose by themselves, yet it always so happens, that the Majority are so very reasonable as to hearken to the prevailing Arguments of their wealthy Leader, our *worthy Friend*. UPON



UPON the whole, Sir, the present Situation of Affairs in *England* is exceedingly happy for us. Let us use them as we please, let us give them what Provocations we find convenient, yet they wont think it proper to resent. They have been long us'd to ill Treatment, they have been, during a long Peace, saddled with prodigious Taxes, they have a long Time practis'd Obedience to our principal Friend, and so long as he is peaceably inclin'd (which considering his <sup>iv</sup> great Age, and the present Posture of his Affairs, will be as long as he lives) we shall never run any Hazard of being brought to Account.

THAT he may continue long in the Station he now enjoys, ought to be the hearty Prayer of every *Spaniard*.

I am, S I R,

*Yours, &c.*

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**P O S T S C R I P T.**

**S**INCE I wrote the former, we have had some Account of *Spain's* persisting in her Demands upon the *South-Sea* Company being first comply'd with, before she will proceed any farther in this merry Convention. This looks with a very good Face. The Company must, first of all, open their Purfes, and then *Spain*, if she thinks proper, will acquaint them when and where they are, some time or other, to expect Restitution from us. But this Demand of our Marquis seems a little too palpable. It has alarmed the City, the Merchants are in a Flame, our Enemies (who grow more numerous daily) cry out, *una Voce*, for War, for Revenge, for ample Satisfaction. So that I have been sometimes in Pain for our worthy Friend, lest he should

should fall a Sacrifice to the Destruction which Rage and Discontent have long threaten'd.

YET this we may depend on securely, if it be possible for Money, even the Purse of the Nation, if the whole Interest of our Friends (who think with one Mind, and speak with one Voice) I say, if all these together can make the People tolerably easy without the Chance of War, we need not fear a Rupture with the *English*. Some proper Steps will be shortly taken; perhaps more Ships may be commission'd, to please the People with the Face of War, in order to allay and repress the present Ferment. But as we know their Men of War are the most quiet, inoffensive Bugbears, we need not be under any Concern. For it is believ'd, that nothing can ever induce our peaceable Friend to draw the Sword, unless the Merchants and Gentlemen unitedly, should effectually execute such Measures,

Measures, as it may be the Interest of us *Spaniards* e'er long to wish we had never provok'd them to. It is now very difficult to judge of the Completion of Affairs. Who can tell what Violence Repentment may have Recourse to? We had better not carry it with too high a Hand till the Nation comes into Temper. We should consider the Welfare and Safety of our Friend, if we loose him we are quite undone. This we shall have too much Reason to fear, if once the sleepy Lion is rous'd.

**F I N I S.**